



AHHH!!! Blackberries: Removing and Managing the Himalayan Blackberry

In the images below, note the differences between the 2 blackberry species. The non-native species has leaves of 3-5, while the native species has leaves of 3. When comparing the 2 species in the field, notice the smaller thorns on the native species.

Non-Native blackberry species

Himalayan blackberry *Rubus armeniacus*



<http://www.nwcb.wa.gov>

discoverlife.org

Native blackberry species

Dewberry or Trailing blackberry *Rubus ursinus*



www2.ups.edu

eaglelandingpark.org

The Himalayan blackberry came to the west coast of the U.S. from Europe in the 1880s as an agricultural berry crop. By the early 1900s the fast-growing and rapidly reproducing bramble had escaped its bounds.

Today, Himalayan blackberry is found commonly across riparian habitats, wet pastures, roadsides, and backyards.

For new landowners, discovering this aggressive plant on your property can be disheartening, especially if it threatens your land-use activities.

For native wildlife, Himalayan blackberry disrupts natural movement patterns and foraging behaviors, as the thick stems and sharp thorns make moving through areas difficult and the plant unpalatable.

Native plant species are often out-competed by the rapidly growing Himalayan blackberry. In fact, even mature riparian area trees can be pulled down by the weight of trailing stems.

Make sure you have a plan to deal with this troublesome plant!

Creating a Management Plan—Answering these questions will help you better plan for the long-term management of Himalayan blackberry

1. Identify the extent to which Himalayan blackberry exists on your property.
 - a. Is it along a waterway? In a pasture? Along your driveway?
 - b. If the plant exists in a large area or along a waterway make sure to contact your city and county to ensure you follow ordinances and procure proper permits.
2. Determine the most economical plan for your property.
 - a. Do you have the time and person-power to manage the blackberry with hand tools and goats?
 - b. Are you comfortable with the use of herbicides on your property?
 - c. What is your plan for re-vegetating the area once the blackberries have been removed?



Timeline for a chemical blackberry removal project occurring on a larger scale

Early Fall

1. Hire a licensed applicator to spray blackberries with herbicide. Make sure to follow all ordinances and permitting processes. Pay special attention to riparian ordinances in your area. Costs approximately \$200/acre
2. 4-6 weeks after herbicide treatment, remove dead canes and those that escaped damage. Consider grubbing out roots to prevent sprouts!
3. Remove any other unwanted weeds and trash from area. Cost ~\$400/acre

Winter

1. Replant area with native trees and shrubs in order to prevent/slow re-infestation and prevent erosion. Costs approximately \$450/acre
2. Ensure that restoration plants are from a local native plant nursery such as Shooting Star Nursery and Plant Oregon.
3. Mulch or cover area with weed mat or cardboard as soon as possible after plantings to further prevent weeds/regrowth.

Spring/Summer

1. Continue to maintain restored area. Maintenance for 1 ½ years costs approximately \$1,500/acre.
 - a. Water native vegetation for 1 ½ years after restoration
 - b. Remove any blackberry sprouts and weeds as soon as they emerge.

For a non-chemical removal approach:

Follow the same timeline, but expect the maintenance and time-intensive aspects of the project to be extended.

**Plan adapted from RVCOG's Craig Tuss' Blackberry Removal Plan*

**For additional planning assistance, resources,
or general information contact
JSWCD at 541-423-6159**